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Richmond, Virginia

To: Dr. C. Ellis Date: September 24, 1990

From: R. Ferguson

Subject: Operations Support Presentation - 3rd Quarter
R&D Planning Conference - September 17, 1990

P. Grantham presented details on the materials evaluation program. R. Ferguson presented an overview of the remainder of the Operations Support activities. In the area of quality assurance support, several ongoing activities were reviewed.

The analytical flavor specifications effort continued to enlarge the number of specifications issued and vendors contacted. The certification of export flavors will be transferred to the Flavor Center during October.

The export sheet certification project has progressed to the point of evaluating samples from export batches of RL and RCB. Certification will begin before the end of the year, in preparation to transferring responsibility to QA.

The monogram ink project has been finished with respect to R&D involvement with the development of new ink formulations. There have not been significant new developments with respect to customer complaints or analytical support for QA.

Several projects were discussed in the area of recon facility support. The alternate humectant program requires the preparation of additional quantities of PG/G free DIET and ESB. There was also discussion of the evaporator upgrade and dry flavor replacement projects in support of Park 500. Another, completed project, Warhol, was mentioned. FTR staff have prepared a report which just issued and which makes recommendations with respect to Europe and USA expansion feedstocks and conditions.

A large number of production support activities were also reviewed. A number of groups are providing information for a tobacco storage study, including mold evaluation on 1989 Bright crop tobaccos. Other engineering studies discussed included methoprene application at LPF, the burley drier replacement study at MC, and the Octagonal burley spray cylinder at Stockton Street.

The Marlboro Standardization run VIII in progress the week of September 17 was described. Flavor development activities in the area of flavor analytical support, tobacco materials support, the natural glycerine subjective study and support to factories for new and test brands was detailed.

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The discussion of packaging evaluation was abbreviated due to the comprehensive presentation made earlier by Mr. Latshaw.

The tobacco microbiology project activities were discussed mainly with respect to important ongoing research on nicotine bioconversion being conducted by the group.

A new program area, adhesives, was also presented. Several incidents in the past year have provided evidence that PM needs to take care of compositional issues instead of relying on what vendors sell us. Mr. Daylor is arranging disclosure agreements with all appropriate adhesive vendors.

The entomology program was only reviewed briefly since its activities had also been mentioned several times in earlier discussions. Several projects in the area of environmental compliance were also mentioned. Research is providing an increasing level of resources to various areas of environmental issues.

There was a brief concluding section on some specific contributions from CTSD and Semiworks. Each of these divisions is supplying resources to support a number of important, ongoing operations support activities.

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